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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The matter is still under investigation and a final decision has not yet been taken by the Government."

Appointment of Collectors.

* 404 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Collectors in the State who belong to Backward Classes; and

(*b*) the number of direct recruits and the number appointed by transfer from the grade of Deputy Collectors?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) None of the Collectors belongs to the Backward Classes as distinguished from the Scheduled Castes. There are two Collectors of the latter group. But if we take in all officers of Collectors' rank including those in posts other than district charge, there are six Scheduled Caste officers of that rank.

" (*b*) The posts of Collectors are not filled by direct recruitment. Of the fourteen Collectors, six belong to the I.C.S., six to the I.A.S. recruited from among Deputy Collectors and two appointed to the I.A.S. by open competition."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" In view of the fact that none from the Backward Classes is acting as Collector in the whole of the State, am I to infer that the reservation of 25 per cent of all kinds of posts for the Backward Classes is a farce? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, there is no question of direct recruitment to the posts of Collectors as such. They must be promoted from below. Hon. Member will realize the inappropriateness of making any reservation like that for particular posts. But so far as the bottom recruitment goes, hon. Member knows what the arrangements are."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Chief Minister to clause (*a*), is it not a fact that the Collector of Chingleput, Sri Muthirulandi, belongs to the Backward Classes? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, as I have already said, if the distinction between the Scheduled group and the Backward Classes is kept in mind, hon. Member will not misunderstand me when I say that the Collector of Chingleput is marked down in the Scheduled group."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" சென்ற ஆண்டில் சாதாரணமாக எத்தனை ஜில்லாக் கலெக்டர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் என்று கேட்டதற்கு தோழர் முத்திருளாண்டியை ஹரிஜன இனத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர் என்று முதல் அமைச்சர் கூறி இருக்கிறாரா. நான் கேட்கிறேன், தோழர் முத்திருளாண்டி 20 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு இருந்தாரா ? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The hon. Member is wrong in misusing the term Harijan in that case. What I said was that the Collector of Chingleput, the present Collector Sri Muthirulandi, is one who is to be classified under the Scheduled group as distinguished from the Backward Class. It is not new. It was the old classification. This has got to be kept in mind, along with particulars furnished in his personal papers."

10 a.m. SRI C. RAJAM RAMASWAMI :—" May I know, Sir, whether there are any Collectors belonging to the Vanniyakula community who claim to be more than 70 per cent of the total population of this State? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We will reach the time when all these classifications will become utterly anomalous and intolerable. At present we are trying our best to help those people who are backward."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, are these figures furnished proportionate to the percentage fixed for Backward Classes in this cadre of services in this State? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" There is no object to be gained by making things immediately proportionate. If we do that the anomaly will be greatly exaggerated. The best possible arrangements have been made in the Constitutional changes that were made recently."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will take five more minutes and finish the rest of the questions."

Bridge at Chethukatavu on the Kozhikode-Mukkam road.

* 405 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a bridge was existing at Chethukatavu on the Kozhikode-Mukkam road some years ago;

(*b*) if so, when it actually disappeared; and

(*c*) whether any steps have been taken to put up a bridge there again?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) A bridge appears to have existed at the place some years ago.

" (*b*) No records are available to show as to when it actually disappeared.

" (*c*) No, Sir. It is a question for the consideration of the district board."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" If the people of the locality are prepared to make contributions to construct the bridge, will the Government be pleased to consider the matter? "